

gency on my part. Holding, as I do, that the

gency on my part. Holding, as I do, that the office is neither to be sought nor declined, I have not urged my friends to present my name to the public nor have I trayed myself in opposition to any of the distinguished men who have been named for that exalted station. On the contrary, so far as I am individually concerned or interested, I would prefer that either of them should be nominated rather than myself; for I assure you I have no desire to enter another and a new field, where it is probable I would be compelled to encounter all the base passions of the human heart.

With these views and not realizing that I can obtain the nomination it only remains for me, in reply to your question, to say that if I am nominated for the Presidency, I may be the person of exalted views, possessing great practical wisdom, and a man of peace, who will bring about a union of all the nations at the same time free from all sectional feelings. In other words, that he will not be a Northern man, nor a Southern, Eastern, or Western man, but a man for the whole country, who will maintain the constitution and the carrying out faithfully all its provisions, and to the preservation of the Union, and the rights of all the States, and the rights, with diversified interests. It ought not to surprise us if there should occasionally clash. In such a case it should be the duty—the imperative duty of the President to maintain the Union, to preserve the harmony, and to prevent those heart burnings and contentions between the States or parts, which if continued would destroy our glorious Union. A more important duty of the President is to be faithful to the President, and one which he

In conclusion allow me to say that, in a long public career, in peace as well as in war, my aspirations have never induced me to look beyond the good opinion of my countrymen which, I assure you, I consider far more precious than office. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN E. WOOL.
To ROBERT G. SCOTT, Esq., Richmond, Va.

LETTER FROM W. L. MARCY, ESQ.
ALBANY, May 25, 1852.
SIR—I have received your letter of the 17th inst., and
the following general statement of my views will
be deemed a satisfactory response to the questions there-
submitted to me:—
I was in favor of the Compromise measure, including
that for the return of fugitive slaves, and considered it

sentiment of congratulation so generally entertained by the democratic party in this State, as well as in others at the settlement, by Congress, in this mode, of the questions which then so deeply agitated the country. The measures have answered the main end for which they were designed—agitation has almost entirely ceased, and the public mind has become comparatively tranquil.

power which for that purpose, belonged to it, to ensure the faithful execution of all the provisions of these general measures.

de to change or modify these measures, in whole or in part, so as to impair the constitutional rights thereby secured to any section of the country, or to render less effectual the protection of those rights, I should not only countenance the proceeding, but, in whatever station I might be, should use my influence and authority to resist and defeat it. I am, with great respect, yours &c.,

JOHN G. SCOTT, Esq. W. L. MARCY.

LETTER FROM LEWIS CASS, ESQ.
WASHINGTON, May 25, 1852.
SIR—I received your letter of the 17th instant, on
day last, and shall proceed to answer it frankly and
directly.
I consider the series of legislative measures, known as
Compromise, including the Fugitive Slave law, as the
adjustment of a dangerous agitation which threatens

the stability of the Union; and this view, which I presented to the Senate on the 21st of December last, in my remarks upon the subject, has been fortified by subsequent events, and hereafter, whether in a public or in a private station, I shall advocate their integrity and their permanence; and should the favor of my fellow citizens come to the Presidency, I should use all the constitutional and legal means within my power to cause those

as well as all others, to be enforced fully, fairly, and without exception; and so far as it might be proper, would discontinue all attempts to disturb or change provisions of the law for the re-capture of fugitives, whereby those provisions might be rendered inefficient in carrying into effect the constitutional obligation upon the United States, etc.

Now, impairing its efficacy, would do more to alienate the South from the North than any event, than all the acts, indeed, which have led to those sectional differences that have marked the progress of our history, and which have happily yielded to a spirit of concession and self-sacrifice. Such a measure would destroy all confidence, both in the good faith of the North, and in the use, everywhere, of the constitutional guarantees; and,

ny opinion would lead inevitably to a dissolution of the Union. So believing, I believe it is the duty of every American to hold on to this Compromise in all its details as he would hold on to those blessed institutions which have made us the freest, the happiest, and the most prosperous nation that the sun of heaven ever shone on.

ty, that a spirit has gone forth in some of the States of the Union, which, were it not checked by a sound public opinion, might produce the most dangerous consequences. The right of property is called in question, and securities that protect it as sacred as any which any regard the social or political system, are derided, denuded, and doctrines are inculcated utterly incompatible with the existence of the Union itself, or with

Among its members, should God in his wrath rate the minute independent communities. It becomes any one who loves his country, and who desires that its republic be glorious and not disastrous, to discontinue these efforts, and to maintain in their integrity true principles of the constitution. A firm determination to do this and not to yield to this dangerous ill, would soon render it harmless; for I am perfectly

pected that the great body of our fellow-citizens in non-slaveholding States, consider the rights of our fellow-brethren as sacred and inviolable as their own. With respect to withholding the Executive approval or bill-modifying or changing this law, "so as to impair its valuable enactments," I have to remark that we cite various constitutional guarantees of the importance to the people of the United States,

without which this government would never have established, which depend for their efficacy upon presidential legislation while, without it, they are barren declarations. Among these, is the right of habeas corpus, and the benefit of the writ of *habeas corpus*—one of which would be dead stipulations, if not brought into life by legislative action, and by the powers it confers upon the judiciary. And among them, also, is the

tion to surrender fugitive from labor, which furnished a strong inducement to many of the States to ratify the constitution, and without which, and a firm basis for its faithful execution, they would not have joined in its consideration. It was certainly the constitutional duty of Congress to pass efficient laws upon these subjects, and having passed them, it is equally their duty to reject now so modify any of them as to leave the

ditional obligations wholly unexecuted, or so ex-
 tended as to fulfil neither the dictates of duty, nor of good
 nature, nor the just expectation, of that large portion of
 the American people, much of whose property depends
 its value upon the faithful observance of one of these
 treaties.

law became, in effect, inoperative, leaving a stipulation of the constitution, vitally important to one-half the States of the Union, almost as useless as if it had no place in that great charter of the government.

Excerpt extracted from some observations made in the Senate on the 15th of March 1850, urging the necessity of the immediate passage of a more efficient fugitive

My own opinion is, that we should take up the bill for the capture of fugitive slaver, reported by the Judiciary Committee.

without unnecessary delay, and to pass it in such a way as may be acceptable to a majority of this body. It is the point upon which the South feels most keenly, and in regard to which it has the most serious sense of complaint. I have heard but one man in this body deny the existence of this evil, or the justice and necessity of providing an adequate remedy. * * * I, for one, am willing to take up the subject, and

vide the necessary means for carrying the provision into full effect. Such a procedure would have the very best effect upon the South at this time—it would be a pledge of our sincerity, and of our desire to do justice to that great section of our common country."

The law, led to the provisions now engrafted upon the final statute, and which, together, provide adequate means for carrying into effect the constitutional obligation. It is my opinion that laws of this nature present peculiarly grave considerations, and that their efficacy must not be impaired without the neglect of undeniable constitutional duties. Essential to the fulfilment of fundamental guarantees, they, in effect, constitute a portion

them, and so far partake of a constitutional character as to be guarded against repeal, or any modification, by which the faithful execution of these important stipulations might be impeded or prevented.

And, in conformity with these sentiments, I have voted aye upon the table, or, in other words, not to consider, petitions presented at the present session, asking changes in the Fugitive Slave law. I was determined,

one, not to touch the law, and to prevent, if possible, a renewal of the agitation. Applying the principles here advanced to the law in question, and especially having reference to the condition of the country, and to the crisis through which it passed, I have no hesitation in saying that, whoever resident, it would be his duty to withhold his approval from any bill so modifying or changing that law."

impair its present valuable enactments, which give to
the necessary efficiency. I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
LEWIS QASS.
Wm. G. Scott, Esq., Richmond, Va.

Superior Court.
Before Judge Sandford.
In the case of *Northam vs. Beach* *Northam*

May 29.—In the case of *Shelton vs. Howell*, defendants, proprietors of the Sun, for libel, the jury could not agree, majority being in favor of giving nominal damages. Jury discharged.
